

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FAA-00 OCE-00 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-01 SY-04 NIC-01 SCCT-01

SIL-01 LAB-04 IO-10 /093 W
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P R 041537Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6505

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

FAA BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAIR, GR

SUBJECT: LABOR/CIVAIL: OLYMPIC AIRWAYS STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: ATHENS 8632, ATHENS 8582

1. OLYMPIC AIRWAYS STRIKE (REFTELS) CONTINUED INTO DECEMBER 4. ON PREVIOUS DAY, SEVERAL THOUSAND STRIKING OLYMPIC EMPLOYEES STAGED MARCH THROUGH CENTRAL PART OF ATHENS TO OLYMPIC STADIUM IN COURSE OF WHICH SEVERAL MARCHERS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES IN ALTERCATIONS WITH POLICE. STRIKERS DEMANDING INTER ALIA REHIRING DISMISSED EMPLOYEES AND CANCELLATION OF SUSPENSION DECREES ORDERED BY COMPANY.

2. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT VOYATZIS AND MINISTER OF LABOR LASKARIS MET WITH UNION EMPLOYEES DECEMBER 3, URGED THEM TO RETURN TO WORK, AND PLEDGED THAT SOME OF THEIR DEMANDS WOULD BE MET. EMPLOYEES OBVIOUSLY RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENT'S WORD ALONE

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SINCE OLYMPIC MANAGEMENT HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO ENTER INTO ANY

DISCUSSION EITHER WITH GOG OR UNION LEADERSHIP SINCE STRIKE COMMENCED.

3. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PASOK (ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S POLITICAL PARTY) ISSUED STATEMENT DECEMBER 3 CONDEMNING "COLONIAL TYPE OF AGREEMENT" WHICH OLYMPIC HAD PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED FROM GOVERNMENT AND CASTIGATING THE "CYNICAL INDIFFERENCE" WHICH OLYMPIC IS NOW SHOWING TO GREEK PUBLIC. IT SHARPLY CRITICIZED GOG FOR INACTIVITY AND LACK OF COURAGE TO ACT FORCEFULLY "DESPITE ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF COMPANY". STATEMENT WARNS THAT "PEOPLE ARE WAITING AND ARE JUDGING WHAT IS HAPPENING."

4. STRIKE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ISSUE THIS WEEK IN LIGHT REFERENDUM DECEMBER 8 ON MONARCHY. SINCE OLYMPIC AIRWAYS IS PRIME AIR CARRIER COVERING DOMESTIC ROUTES, IT WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO CARRY SIZEABLE NUMBER OF GREEKS RETURNING TO THE PROVINCES AND THE ISLANDS TO VOTE. GIVEN THIS FACT, GOVERNMENT MAY POSSIBLY BE FORCED TO ACCEDE TO PUBLIC PRESSURE AND TAKE INITIATIVE EITHER TO PERSUADE OLYMPIC MANAGEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN GOOD FAITH TALKS WITH STRIKERS OR TO DECLARE ARBITRATION PROCEDURES WHEREBY STRIKERS WOULD BE FORCED TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS PENDING FINAL DECISION ARBITRATION PANEL. GOG IN MEANTIME HAS URGED RAILWAYS, BUSES AND SHIPPING ORGANIZATION TO EXPAND THEIR NORMAL SCHEDULES AND RAISE FREQUENCY OF SERVICE DURING COURSE OF OLYMPIC STRIKE.

STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, AIRLINES, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS08665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740351-1010
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741263/aaaacbk1.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ATHENS 8632, ATHENS 8582
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR/CIVAIL: OLYMPIC AIRWAYS STRIKE CONTINUES
TAGS: ELAB, EAIR, GR, OLYMPIC AIRLINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005